

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a user to access data on a legacy system and an intranet, comprising:

a systems interface coupled to the legacy system, ~~wherein~~ the systems interface compris[~~(es)~~]ing at least one network address that can be accessed by a computer over a communication network and further comprising: [(.)]

a transaction server in direct communication with the legacy system; and
~~and further comprises~~ a protocol server for managing protocol regarding the computer interface with a access to the transaction server ~~in direct communication with the legacy system, and~~

wherein the ~~system interface~~ protocol server is adapted to direct communications from the computer from the at least one network address to a separate network address corresponding to the intranet that is distinct from the legacy system ~~by the protocol server~~ and bypassing the transaction server by directing communications from the computer directly to the Intranet.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the systems interface sends a command for the computer to launch a browser in order to route communications from the computer to the intranet.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the command comprises an application program interface command.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one network address comprises a first IP address corresponding to the protocol server and a second IP address corresponding to the transaction server, and wherein the separate network address comprises a third IP address.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the transaction server sends a command to the protocol server to direct the computer to the separate network address in order to direct communications from the computer to the intranet.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the systems interface sends at least one command for the computer to launch a browser and for the protocol server to direct the computer to the separate network address in order to direct communications from the computer to the intranet.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is running application-specific client software to enable the computer to access the data from the legacy system, comprising a browser to be launched at the computer to direct communications from the computer to the intranet, and wherein the browser is displayed at the computer as an active window with the application-specific client software being minimized or hidden behind the active window.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the computer is logged into the systems interface using the application-specific client software, and wherein the computer remains logged into the systems interface and the application-specific client software remains an active application after the communications are directed to the intranet.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is running application-specific client software to access the data from the legacy system, wherein the systems interface transmits a GUI page to the user, and wherein the GUI page includes an icon or software button that can be selected or engaged by the user to initiate the directing.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting a user to access data, comprising:
a computer operable by the user to access information from a legacy system; and
means for providing an interface between the computer and the legacy system, the
means for providing an interface having at least a first network address, at least one
protocol server for managing protocol with the computer[.], and a transaction server in
direct communications with the legacy system,

wherein the ~~means for providing an interface~~ at least one protocol server is
adapted to direct communications from the computer from the first network address to a
second network address providing access to an intranet[.], that is distinct from the legacy
system in response to a user input received by the protocol server and is adapted to
bypass[ing] the transaction server by directing communications from the computer
directly to the Intranet.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the user input comprises engagement
of a software key by the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one
transaction server receives requests and generates legacy system transactions.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the means for providing
an interface issues at least one command that causes the computer to launch a browser
and that causes the at least one protocol server to direct the computer from the first
network address to the second network address.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing data, comprising:
logging a computer onto a systems interface that permits remote access ~~[[of]] to a~~
legacy system[[s]] ~~and that~~, the interface compris[es]ing a protocol server for
managing protocol with the computer and a transaction server in direct communication
with the legacy system and the protocol server;
accessing the systems interface at a first network address initially and persistently;

providing a user input at the computer for accessing an intranet that is distinct from the legacy systems;

launching a browser in response to [[the]] a command received over a network from the systems interface; and

accessing the intranet separately from the legacy systems at a separate network address; ~~by the protocol server and~~

bypassing the transaction server by directing communications using the protocol server from the computer directly to the intranet upon detecting the launch of the browser at the computer, and

communicating with both the first network address and the separate network address such that communication with the legacy system and the intranet is maintained concurrently.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the transaction server is adapted to receive requests and generate legacy transactions, and wherein the transaction server has a second network address.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the computer is logged into the protocol server.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of providing a user input comprises one of selecting an icon and engaging a software button.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the command comprises an application program interface command issued by the protocol server or the transaction server.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of displaying a technician home page corresponding to the separate network address.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of retrieving local information from the intranet, the local information comprising one or more of: cross-box locations, pricing information, service information cable records, and plat records.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of returning to the systems interface.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having instructions for performing acts comprising:

- authenticating a computer attempting to log onto a systems interface to legacy systems;

- providing access to the systems interface, the systems interface corresponding to at least one network address and including a protocol server that manages protocol with the computer and a transaction server in direct communication with the legacy systems;

- sending a GUI to the computer, wherein the GUI provides a user of the computer an option to request access to an intranet that is distinct from the legacy systems;

- receiving and processing at the systems interface the request for access to the intranet;

- sending a message to the computer, the message causing the computer to launch a software application that seeks out a separate network address on the intranet; and

- directing communications from the computer from the systems interface to the separate network address by the protocol server bypassing the transaction server by directing the communications from the computer directly to the intranet; and

- communicating with both the at least one network address and the separate network address such that communication with the legacy systems and the intranet is maintained concurrently.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the option to exercise the request is based on user selection of an icon or a software button.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the message comprises an application program interface command and wherein the software application is a browser.

28. (Previously Presented) A system for permitting a user to access data by employing a computer to access information from legacy systems, wherein the computer is running application-specific client software to access the information from legacy systems, the system comprising:

a systems interface to the legacy systems, the systems interface including a protocol server and a transaction server, the protocol server having a first network address and the transaction server having a separate network address,

wherein the protocol server transmits a GUI to the computer over a network and which displays a first window incorporating one of an icon and a software button that can be engaged to initiate a request for access to an intranet;

wherein the transaction server issues at least one message over the network in response to the request, the at least one message causing the computer to launch a browser application as a second window and the at least one message causing communications from the computer to be directed from the first network address to a third network address corresponding to the intranet that is distinct from the legacy systems by the protocol server bypassing the transaction server and directing the communications from the computer directly to the intranet, wherein communication with both the first network address and the third network address is maintained concurrently.

29-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 23 wherein a legacy system is at least one of a loop facility assignment control system, a computer system for main frame operations, a mechanized time reporting system and a work activity statistical sampling system.

33. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein a legacy system is at least one of a loop facility assignment control system, a computer system for main frame operations, a mechanized time reporting system and a work activity statistical sampling system.